



FINAL - Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019, 10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Route 9 Library, 3022 New Castle Ave., New Castle, DE 19720

The mission of the DECC is to promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families.

DECC Members: Michelle Wall, Make a Wish Delaware; Leslie Newman, Children & Families First; Dusty Blakey, Colonial School District; Elizabeth Ritchie, Delaware Technical Community College; Tanisha Merced, Department of Insurance; Cheryl Clendaniel, The Learning Center; Dr. Michelle Shaivitz, DEAEYC; Carrette Monsanto, Sunshine Family Child Care; Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski, Office of Early Learning; Ed Freel, University of Delaware; Gabriela Kejner, Department of Health and Social Services; Kate Rudolph, Christiana Care; Madeleine Bayard, Rodel Foundation

DECC Ex-officio Members: Betty Gail Timm, Office of Child Care Licensing; Mary Moor, Division of Public Health; Martha Buell, University of Delaware; Dr. Kimberly Brancato, Appoquinimink School District

Attendees: Belinda Taylor, Charter School of New Castle; Lynn Kelley, Children & Families First; Mary Catka, Office of Child Care Licensing; Rachel Valentin, Charter School of New Castle; Nadege Pyatt, Charter School of New Castle; Christy Gleason, Senator Chris Coons Office; Janette Henry, HMS; Kimberly Cowsette, Christina School District; Dakota Laylock, Parents As Teachers; Candice Brown, Let's Play; Kimberly Nelson, Parents As Teachers; Julia Mercier, Route 9 Library; Amber Shelton, Office of Early Learning; Audrey Carey, Indian River School District; Kristin Dwyer, DSEA; Andrea Prettyman, Children and Families First; Lois Lamond, Delaware MNH; Patricia Scruggs, Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware; Jacquelyn Berchtold, Class; Jeannette Short, Office of Early Learning; Christina Koutsourades, Office of Early Learning; Diane Frentzel, Delaware Readiness Teams; Dawn Alexander, Colonial School District; Christine Olley, Lake Forest School District; Lori Hurst-Farrell, Stand By Me; Jamie Schneider, DEAEYC; Patricia Lynch, Ministry of Caring; Nicole Kurz-McDowell, Caesar Rodney School District; Jane Bowen, Newark Day Nursery; Mary Nash Wilson, Office of Management and Budget; Caitlin Gleason, Office of Early Learning; Tina Shockley, Office of Early Learning; Adam Wolff, LLM; Christine Skrobot, DIEEC; Bernice Thomas, BESAC; Daphne Evans, Christina Cultural Center; Paulina Gyan, Division of Public Health; Maura Curran, University of Delaware; Tineal Delacruz, Office of Early Learning; Dr. Gwendolyn Sanders, Wilmington Early Care & Education Council; Cindy Gibbs, Wilmington Early Care & Education Council; Mindy Webb, Division of Public Health; Zulma Arroyo-Loomis, Sarah Williams, Wilmington Montessori School; Jamie Walko, Carla Kelley, Citizen; Katrina Daniels, Colonial School District; Dr. Tanya Robinson, Delaware Early Childhood Center; Rebecca Vitelli,

Colonial School District; Erin Lynch, DEAEYC; Cara Kelly, University of Delaware; Linda Zankowsky, University of Delaware; Cathy Lopez-Cooling, Children's House; Emily Cunningham, Department of Education; Jon Sheehan, Office of the Governor; Schlonn Hawkins, United Way of Delaware; Jennifer Fromme, United Way of Delaware; Whitney Williams, Stubbs Early Education Center; Kristy Sheffler, University of Delaware; Veronica Commodore, University of Delaware; Jill Karlson, De Museum of Natural History; Belvie Herbert, Department of Health and Social Services; Lynn Jezyk, Wilmington Early Care & Education Council; Debbie Simon, Child Development Watch; Leah Leader, University of Delaware; Cathy Perrotto, Delaware Museum of Natural History; Lucinda Ross, St. Michael's; Cindy Brown, Office of Early Learning; Michelle Spencer, DEAEYC; Lisa Miller, DEAEYC; Tiwana Prince, Department of Health and Social Services; Kelly Sherretz, University of Delaware; Doreen Brown, Easter Seals; Jill Nix, Delaware Readiness Teams; John Hulse, Department of Education; Corinne Dries, Newark Day Nursery; Monica Gant, Department of Education

Welcome/Call to Order/Approve Minutes

Madeleine Bayard, DECC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She noted that a sign in sheet would be sent around and that agendas were available. The [minutes of the September 18, 2019](#) meeting were approved by Leslie Newman and Cheryl Clendaniel and passed unanimously. Madeleine noted that subcommittee updates were sent out.

Christine Olley of the Sussex Early Childhood Council thanked everyone for wearing purple to today's meeting to show support for opioid addiction awareness.

Next, tributes were read and given to appointed members Leslie Newman and Dolan "Dusty" Blakey, who are both retiring as of December 31, 2019.

The newly named 2020 Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Vitelli provided [remarks](#) regarding her experience and perspective being a special education pre-kindergarten teacher in the Colonial School District.

Dr. Gwendolyn Sanders introduced members of the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council (WECEC) who provided updates which highlight their focus on the child and on professional development for those working with children.

First, Whitney Williams, Principal at Stubbs Early Education Center & Dual Generation Center introduced Mr. Ken Livingston who is responsible for community family engagement activities. Whitney spoke about changes that were recently made in the makeup of Wilmington area schools. The changes in grade structure within these schools started on Aug 12, 2019. Additionally both physical and emotional changes are happening in the schools due to leaders providing a supportive foundation and partnership with families, children and the community.

Ms. Williams spoke about the Dual Generation Center, where 210 students with a variety of teachers, provide many programs. Such programs include Parents as Teachers, adult and family literacy, state services (Department of Labor, Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Services for children Youth and Their Families), food bank services, clothing closet, etc. All programs are within one

building. Stubbs becomes a place where students' needs are met, a place of help, and a place of trust. They have also assisted with getting parents jobs and housing.

Mr. Livingston shared the [activity calendar from Stubbs for 2019-2020 School Year](#) , and noted they work to match providers with the needs of children both academically and outside of school. He noted that children and their parents participate in trips to the zoo, circus, community cleanups and movie nights, which allow all children to gain opportunities to grow. He welcomed everyone to visit the school and see the kids and keep that excitement going.

Zulma Arroyo-Loomis, a Coordinator with the WECEC Resource Center provided her varied background and how she has enjoyed working with young children in a center the most. She encouraged the work of all childcare providers. She explained how the WECEC Resource Center works with children, supports early care and education providers (including both small and large family centers) and their parents with knowledge and resources to successfully support child development, learning and well-being. She focused on well-being, as this is most critical. She highlighted the scholarships WECEC provides for workforce training such as TECE 1 and 2 and noted that 22 people are involved in TECE. WECEC is excited about the ability to collaborate with the DECC.

Next, Jon Sheehan of the Governor's Office along with Emily Cunningham of DOE, Mary Nash Wilson OMB, and Dr. Kim Krzanowski of the Office of Early Learning (DOE) noted that the work to streamline early childhood governance has continued. Since last month's update, meetings have occurred with Office of Management and Budget, Department of Education, (DOE) Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families and the Controller General's Office. DOE and Office of Child Care Licensing met to better understand the work that both entities do. Discussions focused on when OCCL moves over to DOE and what that will look like for the OCCL employees. Betty Gail Timm of OCCL said that DOE is vested in this, as they spent all day listening so they could better understand what a licensing specialist does, as well as the work of supervisors and administrators. Regarding the moving of positions / individuals from a merit agency to a non-merit agency, it is important to make sure that employees know what that means. Mary Nash Wilson explained about the different types of positions and how the money movement that will occur. OMB is working on budget requests, in consideration of the Governor's recommended budget, which will be released January 30, 2020. Also, meetings are occurring with ACF to talk about quality dollars and how that would transfer with the move of agency services. Meetings will continue to determine how to align and move positions.

It was also announced that OCCL will be housed under the Office of Early Learning when it moves to DOE for now, although that may change in the future. A [timeline](#) was provided to show meetings and announcements that will occur leading up to July 1, 2020 when OCCL will move to DOE. It was also noted that there will be OCCL regulations that will need to be changed over to DOE.

The following questions/answers were discussed:

Q: Will the licensing function be aligned with Delaware Stars when moved to DOE?

A: A decision has not been made at this time.

Q: Will all licensed programs be required to be in De Stars?

A: Community engagement showed significant support for this, however no decision has been made at this point. It was also noted that changes to Tiered Reimbursement have not been decided upon yet by the transition team. The Chair encouraged discussion and a possible vote on this at a future meeting.

Q: Regarding staff qualification, is the industry moving toward higher required qualifications for staff?

A: Yes, this is part of the revisions process which was discussed later in the meeting.

Q: Will developmental screenings be added to QRIS revision or regulations?

A: This is being considered and is well supported in the community. However, we need to figure out what is the best way to do this (depends on if all programs are in Stars or not).

Q: How will the community be able to participate in changes to the regulation?

A: There is an open public comment period 30 days for all regulations. Delacare regulations may include public meetings to receive public feedback. Once regulation is out for public comment we can bring this to the DECC for discussion as well.

Q: Will there be changes in credentials for teachers, and when and where can input be provided on that?

A: There are several opportunities through both [PDG public meetings](#) and QRIS Revision process.

Next, Dr. Krzanowski gave an [update on the QRIS Revision](#). It was noted that at the December DECC meeting, dates will be provided for information sessions where you can give input for the draft QRIS Revision standards.

It was asked how will Delaware Stars Redesign and ECAP work together. This is still being determined. It is anticipated that will be released sometime between January and March 2020, with work being done before June 2020.

The Delaware Literacy Plan was discussed by Monica Gant, Associate Secretary of Academic Support at DOE. Her presentation is here <http://tinyurl.com/deccconnect>. Here is a link to the De Literacy Plan short URL). An overview of the Delaware Literacy Plan was provided and attendees were asked to provide input via a padlet link – <http://tinyurl.com/DECCpadlet>. The Chair encouraged DECC members and attendees to align the DECC Strategic Plan with the birth-to either literacy plan.

It was also noted that staff is working closely to ensure that the [United Way's Campaign for Grade Level Reading](#) is aligned with the Delaware Literacy Plan.

A brief PDG/Strategic Plan Update was given that noted the Needs Assessment is wrapping up. Specifics about the Needs Assessment will be discussed at the upcoming DECC subcommittee meetings on November 19, 2019, and then work will begin on the Strategic Plan. Continued input on the Strategic Plan was encouraged. It was also noted that DOE did apply for a PDG Renewal Grant which was for \$10 million over three years. This would allow DOE to continue implementing its Strategic Plan. Award notification will occur in January 2020 if we received this grant.

Next, Dr. Krzanowski and Belvie Herbert spoke about Quality Spending Proposals and funding from

DHSS. DHSS is in talks about contracts for slots for quality spending, and is seeking technical assistance from federal partners before hiring a manager. Benefits of this are continuity of care and more infant-toddler care available. One of the complexities is incentivizing providers to keep those slots filled. They get paid whether kids are in slots or not. We anticipate there will be about 150 providers that can be served with these quality spending dollars.

The other part of the Quality Spending Proposal provides inclusion specialists. In partnership with DHSS, Plans are underway to move forward with an RFP in January-February 2020 for inclusion specialists. DHSS will work with providers on technical assistance, providing resources for families and ensuring Providers are offering inclusive settings.

Tentatively speaking, the RFP will be available January 2 and will close Feb 8. Anyone interested in bidding can go to bids.delaware.gov. Once hired and trained, providers will be invited to partner. There is a deadline for spending the funds, but it depends on the fiscal year when the funds are awarded (either FY18 or FY19).

No community updates were given, and no other business was conducted. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.